**Casandra Batdorf Cover memo**

**From:** Casandra Batdorf <casandra.batdorf@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Thursday, June 2, 2022 11:33 AM
**To:** Jody Suhrbier <jsuhrbier@mediatethurston.org>
**Subject:** Application for Board Membership

I am applying for the DRC Board of Directors. I believe that I would be a good candidate for the position, because I currently volunteer at the DRC as a Senior Mediator since or about 2013, and I have mediated a range of cases. I believe strongly in individuals resolving their own conflict versus someone else doing it for them.

I am also applying for membership, because I would like to see more diversity within the DRC. As long as I have mediated cases for the DRC, I have not had one mediation involving African Americans families, and I would like to see more African Americans taking advantage of the services that the DRC provides. I do believe that the African American community is just not aware of the mediation process and how it works.  I believe that the DRC offers a lot of good services that we all could benefit from.

When I did have a case that involved African Americans, it was regarding a multi-party racial inequity dispute. I felt that my co-mediator did not have a lot of experience mediating these types of disputes just based on the questions that she asked me, and I sometimes felt she was uncomfortable. We did work well as a team, but I felt that I had to educate her sometimes, because I felt when one of the disputants became emotional, it immediately left the impression that she had a chip on her shoulder versus when the white woman became emotional the perception was different. When I mediate cases with the DRC, I have never had to be educated.

I am used to working with different ethnic groups, and I really enjoy it, and I would like to see the DRC move to getting the word out, if not already. I believe the first step to doing this providing information regarding what we do to the African American churches in Thurston County regarding our services. The DRC has a great service and this is why I still volunteer.